

## **Appendix F.**

# **Minuteman Bikeway Brochure in Miniature, 2002**



# Minuteman Bikeway

America's Most Celebrated Bike Path

[www.MinutemanBikeway.org](http://www.MinutemanBikeway.org)



The Minuteman Bikeway passes through the historic area where the American Revolution began in April 1775. Today, the bikeway is one of the most popular and successful rail-trails in the United States, enjoyed by thousands of people each day for both healthy recreation and transportation. It has become a new type of "Main Street," where neighbors and strangers alike come together while riding, walking, or skating on the path.

Built by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an alternate route to Boston, the Minuteman Bikeway has become a valuable natural resource, used by local residents and visitors from near and far. Connecting to the Alewife "T" Station in Cambridge, the bikeway provides an easy way for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel to subway and bus lines, helping to reduce automobile traffic in the area.

The bikeway is collectively managed and maintained by the four municipalities it passes through: Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge.



Minuteman Bikeway

## Bikeway Basics

**Location:** Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Length:** 11 miles, with mile-marker posts.

**Terrain:** Level.

**Surface:** Asphalt pavement, 12 feet wide.

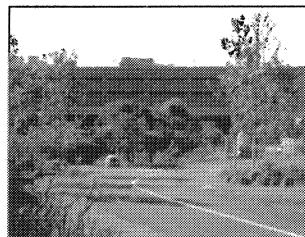
**Hours:** Open 5:00am-9:00pm, year-round.

**Uses:** Bicycling, walking, jogging, in-line skating, cross-country skiing. No motorized vehicles allowed, except for motorized wheelchairs. The bikeway is not plowed in winter (except near Alewife Station).

**Website:** [www.MinutemanBikeway.org](http://www.MinutemanBikeway.org)

**Map:** See reverse side for a detailed map and directions.

**Refreshments and toilets:** Available at Bedford Freight House (seasonal outhouses), Lexington Visitor's Center, Alewife Station, and nearby business districts along the bikeway.



The Minuteman Bikeway connects to the Alewife MBTA Station in Cambridge, providing transportation access to subway and bus service.

## Minuteman Milestones

1775 American Revolution started along the historic rail line where Minuteman Bikeway runs today.

1846 Railroad built, providing both passenger and freight service.

1974 Concept first proposed to convert the rail corridor to a continuous bicycle path.

1981 Rail service discontinued.

1991 Final plan for rail-trail conversion approved, and construction started on Minuteman Bikeway.

1992 Minuteman Bikeway officially dedicated and named the 200th rail-trail in USA.

1993 Minuteman Bikeway opened.

1994 Minuteman Bikeway Urban Design Competition, Boston Society of Architects.

1996 Minuteman Bikeway from East Arlington to Bedford completed.

2000 Minuteman Bikeway from Bedford to Cambridge completed.

2002 Minuteman Bikeway from Lexington to Bedford completed.

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2200 Minuteman Bikeway from Bedford

# Minuteman Bikeway

Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge — Massachusetts  
Web: [www.MinutemanBikeway.org](http://www.MinutemanBikeway.org)



## Getting Here

By bicycle: Plan a local bike route to the Minuteman Bikeway using the *Eastern Massachusetts Bicycle Map* or *Boston's BikeMap*, available at local bike shops and bookstores.

By public transportation: The Alewife "T" Station, at the east end of the Minuteman Bikeway, provides access to/from the metro-Boston subway system (via the Red Line) as well as numerous bus routes. For routes and schedules, visit the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) website at [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com), or call 617-222-3200 (toll-free: 1-800-392-6100).

By car to Bedford: Coming from Interstate 95 (MA-Rte 128), take exit 31B for Routes 4/225 North toward Bedford. Proceed 1.1 miles, then turn left on Loomis St. Go to end of street and intersect with South Rd. Bikeway is adjacent to the Freight House building.

By car to Arlington/Lexington: Municipal parking lots are available in Lexington Center and Arlington Center (see map), near the bikeway.

By car to Alewife/Cambridge: Take Route 2 toward Cambridge, and enter the Alewife "T" Station parking garage. (Parking fee charged upon exiting.) Bikeway is to the west of the station.

## Bikes on the "T"

Bicycles are allowed on MBTA Commuter Rail and subway trains (Red, Orange, and Blue Lines) all day on weekends and during off-peak hours on weekdays (Mon-Fri: 10am-2pm and after 7:30pm). You do not need a special pass to bring your bike on the T, so it's easy!

## Bicycle Maps and Touring Information

Massachusetts has some of the best bicycle maps in the country. For areas near the Minuteman Bikeway, we suggest *Boston's BikeMap*, the *Eastern Massachusetts Bicycle Map*, and the *Cape Cod & North Shore Bicycle Map*. In addition to recommended bicycle routes, these maps also include bike paths. Many maps contain information on local mountain-biking areas, bicycle shops, ice-cream shops, B&Bs, railroad connections, state parks and campgrounds, and picnic areas. For more information, visit *Rubel Bikemaps* website at [www.bikemaps.com](http://www.bikemaps.com).

For information about bicycle touring in Massachusetts, visit [www.massbikie.org/touring](http://www.massbikie.org/touring) on the web.

## Local Bike Shops

For a listing of local bike stores near the Minuteman Bikeway (many of which rent bicycles), refer to the *MassBike* website at [www.massbikie.org/membership/shops.htm](http://www.massbikie.org/membership/shops.htm).

For safety and better performance, we encourage you to have your bike professionally serviced (tuned up) at least once per year.

## Open Spaces

The Minuteman Bikeway borders many open space areas, the largest of which is Arlington's Great Meadows (shown in photo at right with bikeway in foreground), located in East Arlington.

Comprising 183 acres, Arlington's Great Meadow is one of the largest publicly owned open spaces in the area. Heavily landlocked with limited roadway access, the area is best reached from the bikeway in East Lexington.

For those interested in stepping off the bikeway, Great Meadows offers miles of trails suitable for hiking, bird-watching, botanizing, and cross-country skiing. A natural wetlands in the Mystic River Watershed region, this land also serves to control flooding in the area.

For more information, see the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows website at [www.foagm.org](http://www.foagm.org).

Above: Two bicycles resting on the banks of Spy Pond in Arlington. The 100-acre pond is a scenic high point along the bikeway.

Right: Arlington's Great Meadows in Lexington, with the Minuteman Bikeway in the foreground.

PHOTO CREDITS: Unless otherwise indicated, photos are courtesy of the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee.

## Coming Attractions

A decade after its completion, the Minuteman Bikeway continues to inspire community-related improvements along its historic corridor — including these projects currently in the works:

The future Bedford Depot Park will enhance the Bedford terminus of the Minuteman Bikeway with improved landscaping, public sanitary facilities, new benches and lighting, and increased public parking. A retired B&M Railroad passenger car has already been brought on site for restoration. In addition, the 1870s Railroad Depot and Freight House structure will be restored to its original historic preservation. When completed, Bedford's Depot Park is expected to be a model transportation enhancement project, funded with federal TEA-21 money. For more information, see [www.bedforddepot.org](http://www.bedforddepot.org) on the web.

The Lexington Center Depot will soon become a Tourist and Exhibit Center, in association with the Lexington Historical Society. The depot will also serve as a bus terminal, where passengers can purchase drinks and snacks at the depot's former "Violet window," in front of Depot Square, the reconstructed Emery Park will feature widened sidewalks, new public benches, and a loading area for local Express bus passengers. Project completion is expected in 2003.



Above: Volunteers from the Explorer Scouts help patrol the bikeway during the summer months.

Right: Mostly tree-lined, the Minuteman Bikeway serves as a scenic, linear greenway that connects numerous public parks, wetlands, and conservation areas.

Bikeway Map: Adopted from the version on Boston's BikeMap. © Rubel BikeMaps. Reprinted with permission from Rubel BikeMaps.



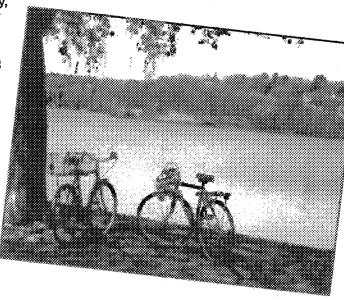
"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race."

— H. G. Wells

## Wear a Helmet

Accidents happen sometimes, and it's important to protect your head in case of sudden impact. We strongly urge everyone to wear a protective helmet while bicycling or in-line skating.

For more information, visit the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute's website at [www.bhsi.org](http://www.bhsi.org).



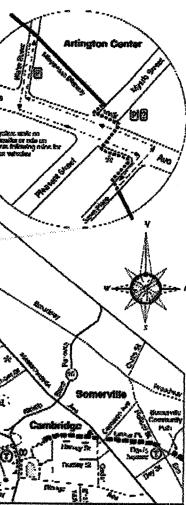
## Share the Road

Bicycles are vehicles too. Massachusetts state law considers the bicycle a fully legitimate vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists when using our public roadways. For community safety, please drive, bicycle, and walk responsibly — and share the road with others.

You have transportation choices. When traffic is congested, consider walking, bicycling, or taking public transportation for short-distance destinations. You'll probably enjoy your trip more, and we will have one less car on the road.



Arlington Center: There is a break in the bikeway at Arlington Center. Motorists and those bicyclists not accustomed to heavy auto traffic should walk on the sidewalks and use the walk signal. Bicyclists accustomed to heavy auto traffic can use Green Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Water Street, following the rules for motor vehicles.



## Beyond the Minuteman Bikeway

Bicycle routes: The roadways around the Minuteman Bikeway offer some of the best bicycling areas in New England. For recommended bike-touring and transportation routes, check out the *Massachusetts Bicycle Map*, *Boston's BikeMap*, and the *Bicycling Street Smart* guide — available at area bike shops and bookstores.

### Multi-use paths near the Minuteman Bikeway:

- Marrow-Gauge Rail-Trail (Bedford), Stone-dust trail near the end of the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford to North Billerica; see bikeway map above for location.
- Reformatory Branch Rail-Trail (Bedford, Concord). Unpaved trail from the end of the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford, ending near the historic Old North Bridge in Concord; see bikeway map for location.
- Battle Road Trail — Minute Man National Historical Park (Lexington, Lincoln, Concord). Stone-dust trail providing cycling and walking access to the national park's historical and natural resource areas; located beyond the bikeway map.
- Fitchburg Cut-off Bike Path (Belmont). Unpaved rail-trail from northwest corner of Alewife MBTA station to Brighton St. near the Cambridge-Belmont line.
- Linear Park Path / Somerville Community Path (Cambridge, Somerville). Paved bike paths from Alewife Station in North Cambridge to Davis Square and beyond in Somerville; see map above. Plans are under way to extend this path to Boston.
- Charles River Bike Path (Boston, Cambridge, Watertown). 14-mile paved loop traveling alongside both banks of the Charles River from the Museum of Science in Boston to Watertown, passing through the Boston Esplanade; located beyond the bikeway map.

For a complete listing of bike paths in Massachusetts (both existing and future), see MassBike's informative website at [www.massbikie.org/bikeways](http://www.massbikie.org/bikeways).

Want more bike paths? Dozens of proposed bike paths are still waiting to be built in Massachusetts. To help support future bikeways, join the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike) and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy — see contact info on reverse side. You can also get involved in your local community to promote bike-path projects.